

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



Over the past year, we collaborated with several community partners to provide local youth with rich and rewarding programming designed to support their academic, personal, and social growth. Working alongside organizations such as BANA, New Beginnings, Amani, Youth Wellness Hub, South Essex Community Council, and Gleaners Community Food Bank enabled us to prioritize employment readiness, self-esteem building, mental wellness, and community engagement.

One partnership we are especially proud of is our collaboration with Art Windsor-Essex (AWE). Together, we delivered a 12-part art series at the gallery titled *Crafting Connections*. Twenty-three students participated in monthly sessions led by a local artist who guided their work and provided ongoing feedback. The program was so well-received that we are already planning additional projects with AWE for this year.

We also strengthened our collaboration with another important part of our students' lives: families. We hosted several caregiver information sessions from community partners on topics of high interest to them, including media literacy and online safety, teen behaviour, and coping strategies. With generous support from Caesars Windsor Cares, we expanded these caregiver engagement sessions to include more in-person events where youth could come with their families to enjoy craft-making, food, and holiday celebrations.

In late spring, we launched a Caregiver Feedback Survey to assess the program's impact and gather ideas for future improvements. Over 90% of caregivers reported that their child is benefiting from On Track to Success with the same percentage saying they would recommend the program to others.

We always look forward to what the students show us they can do. We are equally excited to see who provides support for them on their journeys.





ON TRACK TO SUCCESS (OTTS) provides academic, mental health, social and financial support as well as mentoring and career building opportunities to marginalized youth. Delivered in West Windsor, Downtown Windsor and Leamington, this program is designed to help students graduate from high school and attend post-secondary education.

98%

of students in the program graduated high school on time

87%

of 2025 graduates planned to enroll in a post-secondary program

92%

of students started and stayed in the program.

90%

of students felt OTTS prepared them for post-secondary education

Learn more at weareunited.com/ontrack

*Data shown reflects the 2024/2025 school year

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“This program has really help[ed] and give[n] my family HOPE. I am forever grateful for everything over this year.”

– Caregiver of OTTS Participant

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The Power of Support

Sometimes, the biggest difference in a child’s life comes from knowing someone believes in them. As a United Way Success Coach, Alex is there when students need someone in their corner most — helping them overcome barriers, set goals, and believe in themselves.

Her story is a powerful reminder of what happens when community support wraps around students and their families. Read the full story at weareunited.com/thepowerofsupport



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“The most rewarding part of my job is witnessing students’ growth—whether it’s a scholarship that covers their entire education or a student overcoming anxiety to show up at school consistently.”

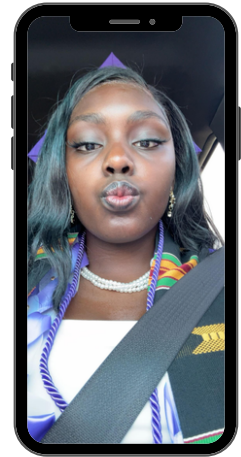
– Alex, OTTS Success Coach

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The UJIMA Initiative supports Black youth enrolled in United Way's On Track to Success program by providing them with culturally relevant activities, opportunities to engage with Black mentors, and community connections that strengthen both academic and personal growth. These supports aim to improve school attendance, academic performance, and self-esteem while instilling a sense of belonging and cultural pride. During the 2024/25 school year, enrollment in the program increased by 7% and we are on track to grow even more this year.

Building a Brighter Future: Daniella's Story

Meet Daniella—a recent high school graduate with big dreams of becoming a surgeon and making healthcare more equitable. But her path wasn't easy. Discover how support from OTTS and Ujima helped her overcome financial challenges, build confidence, and head to university with purpose.



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“I believe in the power of giving back and being a role model for others. Everything I've experienced so far has helped shape the kind of leader I want to be.”

– Daniella OTTS student

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Read Daniella's inspiring story
weareunited.com/brighterfuture

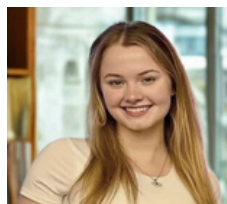
POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT: On Track to Success has expanded programming to support students after graduation through On Track On Campus, which helps them transition from high school to post-secondary education and increases the chances of staying enrolled and completing their studies.



The Executive Mentorship Program (EMP) is designed to provide graduates of OTTS, who are currently enrolled in post-secondary, with a meaningful mentorship over the summer.

EMP provides support and opportunities that can open doors for students like Ashley, helping them walk into a professional spaces with confidence – and helping them discover their purpose.

Read Ashley's story and see the long-lasting impact of investing in local youth at weareunited.com/ashley



– Ashley, OTTS graduate

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“Without United Way, I wouldn't have had the resources to graduate high school, let alone be on the verge of graduating post-secondary. Their support has touched nearly every part of my life in the most personal and practical ways.”

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UNITED IS THE WAY UNITED IS THE WAY UNITED IS THE WAY

On Track to Success would not be possible without the generosity of our donors.

We are grateful to all those who are creating opportunities for local youth, and supporting children from Cradle to Career.

\$1200 - \$4999

- Debra Salter
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- UNIFOR Local 2458

\$5000 - \$9999

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\$100,000+

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- Ministry of Citizenship & Multiculturalism

*The donors on this list supported On Track to Success from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

